

INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 22, 2011

RAISED BILL No. 6306 AAC THE LISTING OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES IN MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION PROVIDER LISTINGS, AND PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER DESIGNATIONS.

Testimony of Renee Provost, APRN - IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL No. 6306

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna, and members of the Committee

Thank you for raising this bill and providing an opportunity to speak on an important issue affecting access to primary care.

My name is Renee Provost, I am a psychiatric APRN, and I'm testifying in support of Raised Bill No. 6306.

Psych APRNs have had independent insurance billing numbers in this state since the early 1990s, while the medical APRNs have not. And, psychiatric APRNs are listed as psychiatric healthcare providers by the insurance companies while medical APRNs have not been listed as primary care providers. This has created a problem for both current patients of the medical APRNs and for those patients who are searching for a new primary care provider. Current patients may lose track of their medical Nurse Practitioner if that provider changes locations. And, because the insurance companies do not list them as primary care providers, medical APRNs are hidden from view as new patients try to access a primary healthcare provider. This new bill would improve access to care by making it easier for patients to find a provider who would be able to see them.

Solving this access to healthcare problem will become even more important after 2014, when full implementation of health care reform is expected to add 19 million people to the ranks of the insured and stretch the available primary care provider supply. Now is the time to ensure that all citizens of Connecticut have access to primary healthcare. The provisions of this current bill will help make that happen.